

Station Point Grey and Very Special Intelligence: Part 1

By Patrick Bruskiewich, ©2012

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Meeting Gordon Shrum OC OBE MM

In the early 1980's I was a young student studying physics at the University of British Columbia, in Vancouver Canada. I was also the youngest serving Canadian Naval Reserve Officer in Canada. On occasion I would attend classes at UBC on Wednesdays in my naval uniform, to coincide with functions I needed to perform later in the day at HMCS Discovery.

Those particular days always proved interesting given the ambivalence at UBC towards Canadians who serve the Crown and Parliament. A sort of generational gap was evident, with the older and professorial types showing interest and respect and the younger students quick to disinterest and disrespect. By my twentieth birthday I had more hours logged on the bridge of a naval ship, than behind the wheel of an automobile, an experience that could not be equalled by any challenge then presented me at UBC.

It was during one of my "*uniformed days*" at UBC that I had the honour and pleasure to meet Dr. Gordon Shrum, OC OBE MM (Jan. 14 1896 – June 20th, 1985) a retired UBC physics professor and distinguished Canadian. I had heard of Dr. Shrum but had never met him before until just before lunch one Wednesday we happened upon each other on the third floor of the Department of Physics and Astronomy. He approached me and introduced himself. He surprised me when he said of me "*Just the man I am looking for.*" (refer to Fig. 1: Dr. Gordon Shrum, circa 1980)

I gave him my best naval salute for I knew him to be a retired Colonel who had done great service to Crown and Country during the Second World War. He had started the war as a Canadian Army Lieutenant with the COTC program at UBC, ending with the rank of Colonel and an OBE (refer to Fig. 2 Lt. G. M. Shrum, 1940).



Fig. 2: Dr. Gordon Shrum, circa 1980
(Courtesy of the UBC Archives)

In turn he quite loudly stated “*it’s good to see someone in a naval uniform in the Physics Building at UBC. You don’t see that any more.*” Out of the blue Dr. Shrum then asked me to join him for lunch that very afternoon.



Fig. 2 Lt. G. M. Shrum, circa 1940
(Courtesy of the UBC Archives)

While I knew I would miss my afternoon class if I accepted his invitation, I also knew that the professors in the Department would not mind the reason for my absence.

Dr. George Griffiths and the Battle of the Atlantic

We walked over to the Faculty club and as we made our way across campus Dr. Shrum mentioned that he had talked with Dr. George Griffiths a few days before, who had told him about our the interesting conversations Dr. Griffiths and I had over our weekly beef dip sandwiches at the old “*Bus Stop Cafeteria*” on campus. Dr. Griffiths had suggested that Dr. Shrum invite me for lunch to chat.

Dr. Griffith, an accomplished nuclear physicist, was teaching me an electronics course and when he found out that I was a naval reserve officer we struck up a friendship, which included lively discussion about things like the Battle of the Atlantic, the great submarine battle during the Second World War. (refer to Fig. 3: Dr. George Griffiths, circa 1981).



Fig. 3: Dr. George Griffiths, circa 1982
(Courtesy of the UBC Archives)

Dr. Griffiths had done wartime service with the Royal Navy’s “Y-Service” in Newfoundland and had been directly involved with the allied efforts to plot, intercept and decipher naval messages to and from German U-Boats in the North Atlantic.

Our weekly conversation and lunch of beef dip sandwiches had benefited greatly by the 1976 declassification of the ULTRA Secret, as well as a 1978 book describing how the Enigma machine code was broken at Bletchley Park. Dr. Griffiths had suggested I read the 1931 book by the American Herbert Yardley titled “*The American Black Chamber*” a few days before I met Dr. Shrum for our one and only meeting.

Solving puzzles has always been a fancy to me. This was one of the reasons I chose a career in mathematics and physics and a reason why codes and ciphers intrigued me in.

Governed by the Official Secrets Act

Just as we arrived at the door of the Faculty Club Dr. Shrum turned to me and asked whether I had signed the Official Secrets Act. I responded that I had. I held the door for him, and as we entered the lobby of the Faculty Club I had an odd sensation in my stomach, one of intrigue and anticipation.

Over lunch Dr. Shrum asked me some questions about the conversations that Dr. Griffiths and I had on the work the allied cryptanalysts did to defeat the Germans Navy during the Battle of the Atlantic.

It was when I mentioned that “Special Intelligence” had also played a part in the US navy’s efforts in the Pacific, particularly at the Battle of Midway, and with the shooting down of Admiral Yamamoto that Dr. Shrum slowly steered our conversation away from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

He then said to me “*what I am about to tell you is governed by the Official Secrets Act. You must promise to keep this under wraps until the matter is declassified. It is a matter of time before it will be declassified like Ultra which is now public, but I am getting old and I may not live long enough to see that day arrive.*”

I extended him my hand and I said that *“as an Officer and a Gentleman I will keep what ever we were about to discuss under wraps until it is appropriate to make public what he was about to tell me.”*

Dr. Shrum passed away in 1985, about five years after our one and only meeting. I kept my promise as an officer and a gentleman to Dr. Shrum until three decades after our luncheon and some years after the partial declassification by the NSA of the Oshima decrypts, as well as 1993 when a book by John Bryden titled *“Best Kept Secret”* disclosed the Special Intelligence work the radio intercept station Station Point Grey did on the campus of the University of British Columbia did during the Second world war. [1]

It was only in 2011 that I finally stepped forward to outline the matter of Station Point Grey to the President of the University of British Columbia (see below). As an officer and a gentleman I stepped forward to address the matter of Station Point Grey (see below: **The Decision to Secure Fort Point Grey and Station Point Grey**)

Fort Point Grey

At this point, we moved from our table to the lounge, which was empty and private. Dr. Shrum had with him a leather attaché case, which he opened, producing a series of black and white photographs which he laid out on the table, and a 1965 National Geographic titled *“Top of the World”*, and handed me a copy of the 1943 Radio Engineers' Handbook by Frederick Termons. I still have the map and the Handbook.

Over our coffee and desert Dr. Shrum began to slowly and carefully describe to me a most fascinating story about Fort Point Grey and Station Point Grey. Station Point Grey was a secret section of Fort Point Grey, which itself was part of the wartime Defence of the Port of Vancouver. The Fort was the southern point of the defence line across the entrance of the Port of Vancouver.

Fort Point Grey was located adjacent to where the UBC Museum of Anthropology now resides. In fact the museum's centrepiece Bill Reid exhibit sits atop what was once the foundation of one of the Fort Point Grey gun emplacements (refer to Fig. 4: Fort Point Grey, UBC 1943). [2]

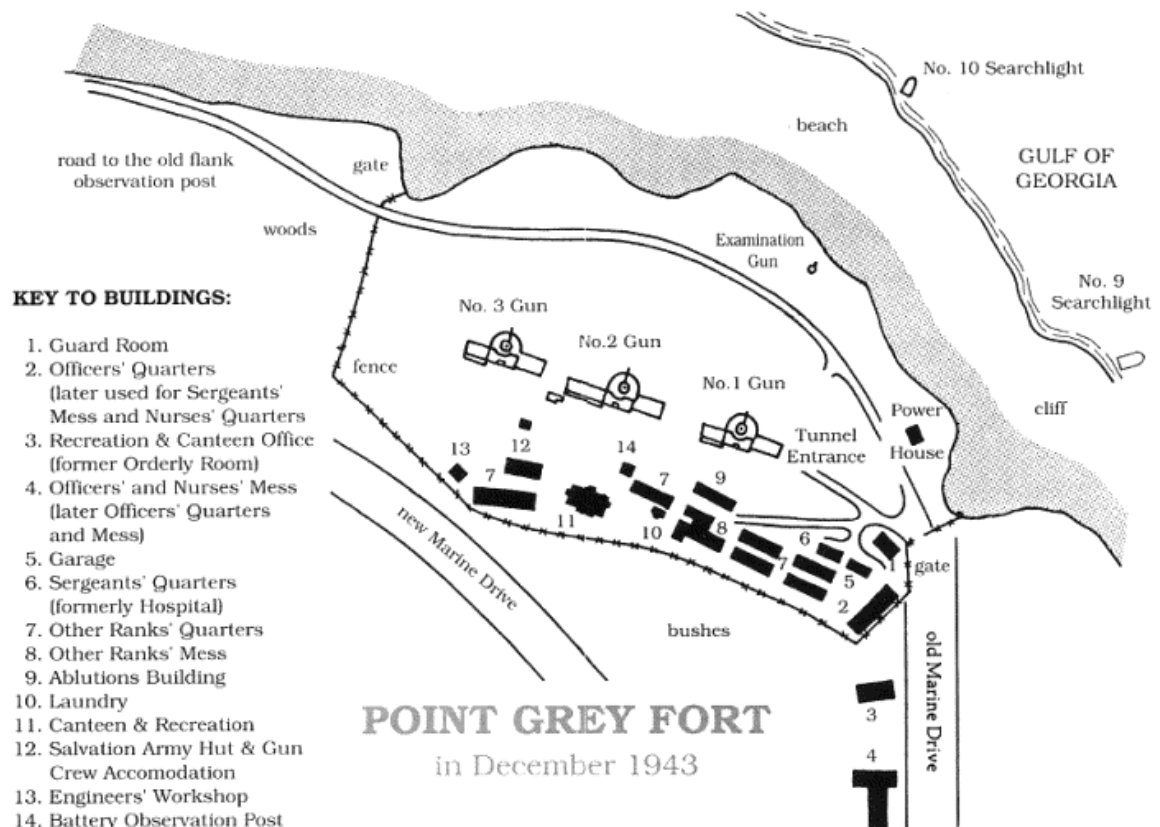


Fig. 4: Fort Point Grey, UBC, Circa 1943

All the wartime buildings have long since been demolished, however, much of the concrete gun emplacements are still visible at the site and down the embankment to English Bay.

Best Kept Secret: Station Point Grey

Dr. Shrum began the story of Station Point Grey by telling me that the Point Grey Monitoring Station had been in operation since 1908. Located overlooking the Straits of Juan de Fuca, the site had been used to monitor radio traffic across BC and maritime radio traffic off the West Coast of Canada.

In 1937 the Point Grey Monitoring Station was transferred over to the newly created Department of Transport. In 1939 Point Grey Monitoring Station began radio intercept work for the war effort (refer to Fig. 5: Point Grey Monitoring Station Looking South, Circa 1940)



Fig. 5: Point Grey Monitoring Station Looking South, Circa 1940
(the UBC campus is in the background. Picture from the Hayes
Private Collection, Victoria)

From 1940 onwards the Station Point Grey intercept operators were using state of the art heterodyne receivers, and manual transcription of the intercepts. Intercept stations at the naval base at Esquimalt near Victoria, BC, on Lulu Island and at Masset north of the Queen Charlotte Islands would also cover the region for the Examination Unit in Ottawa,

the home of Canada's wartime cryptanalysts, as well as Naval and Army intercept clearing centres.

During the Second World War the two storey building housed upwards of two dozen radio intercept operators. Part of the function of the soldiers at Fort Point Grey was to protect and secure Station Point Grey. After the Imperial Japanese Navy attacked the US Fleet in Pearl Harbour in December 1941 the security of Station Point Grey with regards to the war in the Pacific became of primary importance (see below: **The Decision to Secure Fort Point Grey and Station Point Grey**).

By 1943 Station Point Grey had an extensive antenna array farm (Fig. 6: Facing North Along the Antenna Array at Station Point Grey, Circa 1943).



Fig. 6: Facing North Along the Antenna Array at Station Point Grey, Circa 1943
(Station Point Grey is to the left, while the station chief's house is to the right,
Source: Private Collection of W.J. Bowerman).

A number of different radio networks were monitored by the radio intercept operators at Station Point Grey, however no network was more important to the work done at this 'Y Station' than the diplomatic traffic to and from the war time Imperial Japanese Government in Tokyo.

Station Point Grey and the Japanese Diplomatic Code

Dr. Shrum unfolded the 1965 National Geographic titled “Top of the World”, took out a pencil from his jacket and marked a big X on Berlin, Tokyo and Vancouver (I still have it tucked away in the Termon handbook). He then said *“You’re a naval officer, tell me what you see when I ask you to group Berlin, Tokyo and Vancouver together.”*

Studying the chart, my answer was immediate, *“they are equidistant from each other, and nearly at the same latitude.”*

He continued, *“Good. You probably know a thing or two about radio, what do you think being equidistant means?”*

My answer was definitive *“if you can hear Berlin in Tokyo or vice versa, you can hear either in Vancouver. Something about atmospheric bounce.”*

Dr. Shrum responded *“you have just figured out one of the great secrets of the Second World War. During the war if you had made this secret public they would have put you against a wall and shot you, or at the very least locked you away for a very long time.”*

At this point we were interrupted by a waitress who was bringing us more coffee. When she left he continued, *“from 1942 onwards both the Americans at Arlington Hall in Maryland, and the British at Bletchley Park in the UK, asked Station Point Grey to do some special intelligence work for them. ”*

“The most important messages they were intercepting”, he said, “were those between the Japanese Ambassador in Berlin, General Hiroshi Oshima to the Japanese Foreign Ministry in Tokyo. These messages were decrypted and help the allies in their war effort.” (refer to Fig. 7: General Hiroshi Oshima, Japanese Ambassador in Berlin).



Fig. 7: General Hiroshi Oshima, Japanese Ambassador in Berlin

With the special intercepts he said the operators would use wax cylinder recorders to intercept and record the Katakana code emissions of the Japanese Diplomatic to and from Tokyo. A high-speed teletype system also connected Station Point Grey with the Examination Unit in Ottawa. From there, raw intercepts were sent on their way to Arlington Hall in the US and to Bletchley Park in the UK.

Dr. Shrum continued, *“what made this source so special was the Ambassador’s special relationship with Adolph Hitler. He was a close and personal friend of the Nazis leaders.”* (refer to Fig. 8: Ambassador Oshima presenting his Diplomatic Credentials to German wartime Chancellor Adolph Hitler).



Fig. 8: Ambassador Oshima presenting his Diplomatic Credentials to German wartime Chancellor Adolph Hitler 1939

*“Ambassador Oshima,” Dr. Shrum then explained, “sent detailed reports of his discussions and tours throughout Germany and occupied Europe back to Tokyo in codes that were broken and being read by the allies. This included important messages sent on the lead up to D-Day. “ (for an example of such a message refer to **Appendix A: A decrypted message of Oshima’s May 27th, 1944 meeting with Adolph Hitler**).*

He continued, *“but telling you about Oshima and Station Point Grey was not the only reason why I wanted to have lunch with you. George Griffiths tells me you understand technology.”*

I mentioned that I was taking an electronics course with Dr.Griffiths and that we had lunch once a week at the “bus Stop Cafeteria.

“He tells me that you also understand aviation and nuclear technology.” I nodded and told Dr. Shrum that my father is a retired RCAF wing commander.

“Here’s the real reason why I asked you for lunch. The Germans and Japanese had an arrangement whereby they shared advanced technology, things like aircraft and nuclear technology. The Japanese called the program Yanagi – which is Japanese for Willow. The Germans and Japanese sent submarines back and forth carrying plans and examples of the equipment. “

“Station Point Grey also intercepted the messages for the technology exchange going on between Germany and Japan. They were sending blueprints and equipment for their Me-163 rocket planes, the Me-262 jet planes, the V-1 buzz bombs, advanced radar and even some nuclear technology. We passed this special intelligence directly onto the Royal Navy and the United States Navy. ”

He then explained that both the RN and USN went out of their way to search for and sink these special shipments. He mentioned that the RN even had one of their submarines sink a German U-boat carrying special cargo to Japan while outbound from Norway during world war two. (refer to Fig. 9: Admiral Raeder and German U-Boat Admiral Donitz meeting with the officers of a Japanese Submarine Yanagi Crew)

“When George told me he was teaching a naval officer I wanted to meet you for lunch and tell you myself that because of the work of Station Point Grey the allies managed to sink all but a handful of the Yanagi submarines. This changed to course of the Second World War.” I mentioned to Dr. Shrum that I had read about the success the allies had in sinking German U-boats but not about the Yanagi program.



Fig. 9: Admiral Raeder and German U-Boat Admiral Donitz
meeting with the officers of a Japanese Submarine Yanagi Crew

He continued, *“but there is something even more interesting. George has also mentioned to you that the Axis had a bomb program.”* I nodded that Dr. Griffiths and I had spoken briefly about the German Atomic bomb.

Then Dr. Shrum dropped a bombshell. *“The Germans had an advanced design for an atomic bomb which they successfully tested and which they shared with the Japanese. If you talk with Fred Kaempffer he can tell you more about this.”*

Dr, Gordon Shrum looked at his watch then got up out of his chair. Our lunch and chat at the Faculty Club came to an end. *“There is someone I would like you to meet and get to know.”*

We talked as we walked back to the Physics building whereby Dr. Shrum deposited me at the door of Dr. Frederick Kaempffer's 3rd floor office. "*Dr. Kaempffer is expecting you.*" I saluted Dr. Shrum a final time and thanked him for the lunch and for the briefing about Station Point Grey. We had arrived back exactly at 3:00. I was beckoned to enter Dr. Kaempffer's office and would spend an hour chatting that afternoon, the first of many talking about physics and technology with a very unique physicist.

Dr. Fred Kaempffer spent the Second World War doing theoretical and applied physics at Gottingen University, in Germany. Gottingen had been a centre for advanced aeronautics and nuclear research from 1937 to 1945. After the second world war Colonel Gordon Shrum would make arrangements to bring Dr. Kaempffer to UBC [4]. The discussions Dr. Kaempffer and I would have on things like the German Atomic Bomb Program is outlined in Station Point Grey and Very Special Intelligence: Part 2.

The Most Famous Oshima Decrypted Message

Since my meeting with Dr. Shrum some three decades before, many of the Oshima messages had been declassified by the NSA (the people across the Atlantic tend to safeguard their secrets). The message in Appendix A is considered "*The Most Famous of the Oshima Decrypted Message*".

The message recounts a meeting Ambassador Oshima's had with Adolph Hitler on May 27th, 1944. This meeting between Hitler and Ambassador Oshima occurred mere days before D-day, the allied invasion on June 6th, 1944, and touches on a possible landing in Normandy as a diversion to a landing at the Pas de Calais.

The 1942 Little – Denniston Agreement

An excerpt from the Bryden book about a special arrangement made by the famous cryptanalyst Commander Denniston in charge of diplomatic and commercial decryption for the Government Code and Cipher School (GCCS) and Lieutenant Little representing the Examination Unit in Ottawa, is worth reciting in its entirety:

“Little and Denniston hit it off. The older man took a liking to the enthusiastic Canadian naval lieutenant and toured him around the London headquarters. ‘I was under the impression that a lot of people working on a great mass of material all over,’ Little later recalled. Denniston invited him down to his home for a weekend, and later where they sipped gin and talked cryptography. The result was a special gift to Canada. Denniston said that Britain would give Canada the decrypts of high-grade Japanese diplomatic traffic. This included the precious machine-enciphered (PURPLE) messages from the Japanese ambassador in Berlin ...

In return, Denniston, with Menzies’ approval, asked that Canada continue to monitor Japanese traffic but concentrate particularly on the Japanese diplomatic and commercial messages being received by the Point Grey station near Vancouver. The British were certainly trying to hear Tokyo themselves. The wireless intercept station at Brora, Scotland was tuned to no less than ten stations sending from Japan to Germany, but reception was incomplete. Denniston arranged through the Admiralty for the most promising traffic heard in Canada to be cabled to Britain as soon as received, while less urgent raw material – the commercial traffic – was to be packaged and sent via Ferry Command ...

By coincidence, the Americans at this time made an almost identical offer. Within a few days of Little’s return to Canada, a representative from the War Department told the Examination Unit committee that arrangements had been made to supply the British with ‘messages of special secrecy’ and it was prepared to do the same for the Canadians. It appears that the Americans ... were now monitoring

the Tokyo-Berlin half of the traffic involving Japan's diplomatic staff in Germany. The offer was so important that Robertson and Pearson immediately accompanied the Prime Minister to London to clinch the deal.”

Best Kept Secret, p. 140-141

Immediately after this high level meeting in Washington, special high-speed wax drum recorders were installed at Station Point Grey to record the diplomatic signals being sent on the Tokyo-Berlin circuit.

The recordings would find their way first to the Examination Unit in Ottawa (Canada's wartime cryptanalysis centre set up by Lester Bowles Pearson) and in turn to both Arlington Hall in Maryland and via the HYDRA transmitter at Camp X to Commander Denniston's and the cryptanalysts at the Berkely street division of GCCS, where diplomatic and commercial traffic were handled.

An example of the valuable types of messages intercepted by Station Point Grey and decrypted under the 1942 Little- Denniston Agreement is found in Appendix A: A decrypted message of Oshima's May 27th, 1944 meeting with Adolph Hitler.

The Decision to Secure Fort Point Grey and Station Point Grey

In 2011 when I stepped forward to outline the matter of Station Point Grey to the President of the University of British Columbia, I decided to do some scholarship to bring myself up to speed on the latest information available in the public domain on the special intelligence work done at Station Point Grey.

In 2011 I read the 1993 book when a book by John Bryden titled “*Best Kept Secret*” disclosed the Special Intelligence work the radio intercept site Station Point Grey did on the campus of the University of British Columbia did during the Second world war.

After the Japanese Imperial Navy (IJN) attacked Pearl Harbour in December 1941 and the Imperial Japanese Government declared war on the Canada and her allies, the Parliament of Canada made the decision to secure both Fort Point Grey and Station Point Grey by requiring all students of Japanese heritage, irrespective of nationality, to leave their studies at the University of British Columbia for the duration of the conflict with Japan.

The Imperial Japanese Navy had an extensive intelligence collection network along the western seaboard of North America, which caused hardships to allied shipping throughout 1942 and into 1943. The IJN also undertook attacks up and down the West Coast in 1942 and 1943.

The decision to secure UBC, Fort Point Grey and Station Point Grey was a wise and pragmatic decision by the Parliament of Canada. The President and Board of Governors at UBC in 1941 were asked to follow a rightful order under wartime regulations. These regulations remained in force until 1946 and wartime demobilization.

In 2011 UBC was pushed by a Political Action Group to confer honorary degrees to former students of Japanese heritage who were asked to leave the campus of the University of British Columbia in the weeks following the December 1941 attack on Pearl Harbour and the subsequent declaration of war by Imperial Japan on Canada.

There is an irony that a Political Action Group of Japanese heritage would be so critical of a group of professionals doing the work of good Samaritans who would in turn save the lives of so many millions of Japanese citizens, some of whom were related to the honorary degree recipients.

The Special Intelligence Gathered at Station Point Grey Saved Lives

In the last year of the Second World War one million people were dying each month.

The Special Intelligence gathered at Station Point Grey helped to shorten the duration of the Second World War by upwards of two years, and helped to save the lives of perhaps of 30 million non-combatants, many of whom were from Asia, and many of whom were in fact Japanese.

It was evident to me that in conferring these honorary degrees in 2011 the University of British Columbia erred in matters of scholarship and in matter of law. This matter will be dealt with in greater detail in **Station Point Grey and Very Special Intelligence: Part 4**

References:

- [1] John Bryden, *Best Kept Secret: Canadian Secret Intelligence in the Second World War*, Lester Publishing Ltd. Toronto, 1993
- [2] This map comes from <http://www.petrowilliamus.co.uk/pointgrey/war.htm>
- [3] These pictures from private collections of radio operators who worked at Station Point Grey. For instance, http://www.spectralumni.ca/MS_Point%20Grey.htm
- [4] The story has to how Dr. Frederick Kaempffer would leave Gottingen and become a professor at the Physics Department can be found in the article George Michael Volkoff, the University of British Columbia and the TRIUMF Project at archive.org.

Appendix A: A decrypted message of Oshima's May 27th, 1944 meeting with Adolph Hitler

(declassified by the NSA, the successor to Arlington Hall, in May 1980)

WAR DEPARTMENT
SECRET

From: Berlin (OSHIMA)
To: Tokyo
28 May 1944

#511, 7 PARTS COMPLETE. Strictly Secret.
PART 1: Re My Message #508¹.

The following, in sum, is what Chancellor
HITLER said:

1. "Where the battle is now acute is the Italian Front. Against that quarter, England and America have stacked an infinitude of weapons and materials and embarked on a drive. Nevertheless, to my view, the main object of this drive is to lure German military strength to that quarter; therefore, Germany will not count too highly the loss of more or less territory. We are putting up very stiff resistance and while inflicting huge losses on the enemy, we are retiring. Since the military situation in Italy depends much on the enemy's superiority in the air, it would be an effective measure for Germany to send in aerial reinforcements, but in this matter other military theatres are concerned and we are refraining from doing so. *Originally, with a view of using the Appennine range and of maintaining the Italian front, Germany submitted a similar message, and with a view to maintaining the Italian front,* For some time Germany has used the Appennine range, and with a view to maintaining the Italian front,

Japanese #124402
Page 1

SECRET
WAR DEPARTMENT

Handwritten: JMD C24

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SRDJ 59971

by Director, NSA/Chief, CSS

15 May 1980

WAR DEPARTMENT

SECRET

There we realized that
 established a powerful position ~~was~~, but from the point
 of view of expediency, ~~realizing that~~ it was necessary to
 defend Rome, ^{so, south of that city,} on a line ^{neighborhood} ~~reaching~~ from the Alban ~~vicinity~~ ^{part a point}
~~vicinity~~ ^{running} south of Cassano to ~~a point~~ ^{The}
 north of Pescara, we have formed a ^{certain line} ~~position~~ which we call
 "Position C", and with the idea in mind that I have al-
 ready described, while inflicting as much damage as possible
 on the enemy, we will retire to this line.

PART 2:

2. The temporary ease on the Eastern Front now con-
 tinues, but I am thinking that before long the Soviet will
 charge. For the time being, Germany has taken the steps
 necessary to attain the object of staving it off. The
 Hungarian army also has already sent seventeen divisions
 to the front. Romania, too, has practically the same number
 on Line #1. In view of past experience, Germany saw proper
 to place some of her finest divisions, particularly armored
 divisions, among these foreign troops. Despite the fact
 that the defense of Europe we realized had best be exercised
 at the River Don, neither Hungary nor Romania understood
 this. However, this time more concern seems to be expressed
 on their faces than before because the flames are now close

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 Page 2

SECRET

WAR DEPARTMENT

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 15 May 1980

SRDJ 59972

WAR DEPARTMENT

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to their own borders. So far, they have come out rather well."

I then asked, "What course do you judge that the Soviet drive will follow?", and HITLER answered, "Two. I think that they will head northwest from the Lemberg area and penetrate into the General Government by which I mean Central Poland, and also invade Romania. I think that the drive from the Lemberg quarter will come first, and then an attempted invasion of Romania," and further explained, "As I told you the last time, I am not satisfied to stay on the defensive forever and when I see my chance I intend to turn to the offensive again."

PART 3:

3. Speaking of the Second Front, HITLER said, "I believe that early or late an invasion action will be carried out against Europe. On the British Isles there are already about eighty divisions of men gathered together, I believe." (Actually among them, there are a mere eight divisions of real fighting men that have experience in actual warfare.) I then asked, "Does Your Excellency believe that these Anglo-American forces are fully prepared to invade," and

Japanese

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Page 3

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SRDJ 59973

WAR DEPARTMENT

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HITLER answered, "Yes.". I waited for a moment and went on, "I wonder what ideas you have on how the Second Front will be carried out," whereupon HITLER answered, "Well, as for me, judging from relatively ominous portents, I think that Ablenkungsoperationen (diversionary actions) will take place against Norway, Denmark, the southern part of western France, and the coasts of the French Mediterranean--various places. After that, after they have established bridgeheads on the Norman and Brittany Peninsulas and seen how the prospect appears, they will come forward with the establishment of an all out Second Front in the area of the Straits of Dover. As for Germany, it would be most desirable, if a chance were to be had, to smite them in as brief a time as possible, but if the enemy does what I have just described, their men will be dispersed. Expecting this, we intend to finish off the enemy's men in many spots." Then he continued, "The number of German troops in the west, just as the last time, make up about sixty divisions.

PART 4:

4. To this I said, "I, too, figure that the signs point toward the coming of an invasion sooner or later by

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Page 4

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the Anglo-Americans. Since the enemy apparently intends to take this step, or even if perchance he does not, there is much to think about. During my last conversation with you, you told me that in case they did not come you thought you might blast southern England, using rocket guns and find an opportunity to take the initiative again on the Eastern Front. Well, since then, the Anglo-Americans have been bombing this area stronger than ever and I wonder if these instruments you were going to shoot at England with have not been destroyed." HITLER answered, "No, these guns are in an arsenal made of impermeable concrete. They are in no danger." Again I spoke up, "If the Anglo-Americans do not stage an invasion, don't you think it would be a little dangerous to return your troops to the Eastern Front?" HITLER answered, "Well, I have no intention of waiting forever for them to come. I will give them two or three months more time but if they don't come then, Germany will take the offensive. By that time, adding the ones we have now finished organizing and equipped, we will have between 60 and 70 divisions. (I seem to remember that he said that 45 of them were armored divisions.) Then we will be able to take the offensive."

Japanese

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Page 5

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WAR DEPARTMENT

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(Also he said that he had exceeded his plans for organizing S.S. divisions and that 25 of them had already been practically organized and equipped.)

PART 5:

Purposing, I pointed out to him the past record of the German-Soviet war and went on to say, "The line where both the German and Soviet armies now face each other, leaving out the three Baltic nations, is just about what it was when this war started. For you to go ahead and repeat a drive with the same idea in mind that you have always had, could not, would not after all decide that conflict. I think that you ought to adopt another view of some sort, and wage an action like that of Canse long ago. What does Your Excellency think of that?" HITLER paused a moment and continued, "To tell you the truth, the Soviet striking power has more or less weakened. Soviet manpower is now, generally speaking, on the front line about 700 and on the second line about 200 divisions, so it is said, but let us stop to consider its makeup. A whole lot of these divisions are not even up in strength to mere regiments, in my opinion. The same is true of their equipage. The quality of their infantry has deterior-

Japanese

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Page 6

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WAR DEPARTMENT

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WAR DEPARTMENT

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ated extremely, but the ~~cavalry~~ ^{artillery} and tanks are excellent. Following their experience in real warfare, their use of great groups of ~~cavalry~~ ^{artillery} has increased tremendously, and speaking of the calibre of their shells, although they are in no wise technically superior to ours, since they use large amounts of various materials like tungsten and molybden, they are qualitatively superior to ours. Their tanks, particularly T-34's, in view of the nature of the terrain on the Eastern front, are better than Germany's. ^{are excessively heavy} The Tigers ~~Jack-weight~~, and in time of schramm (mud), they cannot be used. In some cases, we put sturmgewehr, also, (I think I may translate this "assault guns") on the controls. The Panthers, too, are nothing more than of an experimental nature. They have had any number of kleinere Krankheiten (minor defects.)

PART 6:

Recently, we have succeeded in improving them and in the Soviet, highly mobile field guns are absolutely necessary. Before long, we are going to attach a considerable number of assault guns to every unit and establish 45 assault gun brigades as general army reserves. We are gradually mak-

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Page 7

~~SECRET~~

WAR DEPARTMENT

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15 May 1980

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ing progress. Moreover, principally out of consideration of our war with the Soviet, we have just ordered Speer to carry out our plans for increasing assault guns and tanks. By January of next year, it appears that we are likely to have a monthly output of 1,800 assault guns and 1,500 tanks. As for the Luftwaffe, although we are found numerically wanting since America entered the war, in the meantime, as a result of having concentrated on increasing fighter planes in particular, our monthly amount in September is scheduled to reach 6,000 and by January of next year, 8,000. (HITLER spoke of fighters, but I think he meant to include pursuit planes and Schnellbombers.) In the past, damage wrought by English and American air raids has indeed not been small, but as you know, most of it has been against dwellings in general and although innocent people have been killed and wounded and much material damage has accrued, harm wrought to factories and other production equipment is very light compared to that.

PART 7:

"The most important airplane construction equipment has already been put under ground for the most part, and in

Japanese

#124402
Page 8

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two months this work will be about finished, thus enabling us to reduce a step further the effect of air raids. And I expect that from now on the military situation will continue black for Germany, but at least this year we will gain an opening that will enable us to regain the initiative," so he added.

5. During this conversation Chancellor HITLER asked me about conditions in Greater East Asia, particularly the battle of India; how the battle of Homan was going; what our plans were; and what America's war strength and plans appeared to be. As I knew hardly anything about these things, I merely gave vague explanations. However, I told him that the Empire of Japan is now doing her very best to increase the output of airplanes and ships and that I believed that as we progressed in this enterprise, we would turn with a vengeance to the further prosecution of the war.

In this message there are points which have to do with Germany's future schemes concerning the conduct of actions, so I want you please to be most careful to guard their secrecy.

a - SSA #124309.

Inter 29 May 44 (2)

Japanese

#124302

Rec'd 29 May 44

Trans 30 May 44 (772-C)

Page 9

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